

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SY-04 CAB-09

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

FAA-00 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /075 W
----- 112540

R 111555Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5793

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3601

E.O. 116529: GDS

TAGS: ETRN TS

SUBJECT: AIRPORT SECURITY

REF: TUNIS 1862

STATE 83130

STATE 112575

1. IN PURSUING SUBJECT WITH MINISTRY INTERIOR OFFICIALS EMBASSY/USAID HAS LEARNED THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNICATIONS GAP AMONG THOSE OFFICIALS. THUS, AS REPORTED SEPTEL, ALTHOUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY SENT US OFFICIAL LETTER REQUESTING FIVE TRAINING SLOTS FOR FAA SECURITY COURSE, SENIOR INTERIOR OFFICIALS NOW RPT NOW UNWILLING UTILIZE THEM.

2. COMMISSIONER GENERAL MOKRANI, IN CHARGE OF TRAINING AT INTERIOR, HAS REITERATED THAT MINISTRY REMAINS INTERESTED IN MOBILE ANTI-TERRORIST FORCE (TUNIS 1862) AND WE HAVE CONFIRMED THIS WITH HIS SENIORS AT MINISTRY. WE DISCUSSED WITH MOKRANI POSSIBILITY OF EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION VIA TDY VISIT OF FAA SPECIAL ST (STATE 83130) BUT THIS OPPORTUNITY DID NOT STRIKE RESPONSIVE CHORD. MOKRANI'S SUPERIORS HAVE TOLD HIM THEY WANT (A) HELP AND ADVICE FORMING SMALL, MOBILE FORCE OF ANTI-TERRORIST POLICE: AND (B) IN-COUNTRY
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TRAINING OF SKY MARSHALS BY USG EXPERT.

EMBASSY/USAID IS TAKING NO ACTION ON
(B) PENDING CLARIFICATION AND POSSIBLE WRITTEN REQUEST,
BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF USG CAPABILITY
TO RESPOND IF REQUESTED.

3. RE GOT DESIRES FOR ANTI-TERRORIST TRAINING, WE
APPRECIATE FACT THAT FAA NOT IN POSITION TRAINING POLICE
BRIGADES. HOWEVER MOKRANI MAKES VALID POINT THAT
STANDARD POLICE/MILITARY TRAINING DOES NOT ENCOMPASS
PSYCHOLOGICAL, TACTICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS ELEMENTS
UNIQUE TO THE KIND OF INCIDENTS WHICH TERRORISTS HAVE
BEEN PERPETRATING IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES. INTERIOR
MINISTRY HOPES TO BENEFIT BY USG ANALYSIS AND EXPERIENCE
OF WHAT IT TAKES TO HANDLE SUCH INCIDENTS IN SUCH WAY
AS TO REDUCE TO MINIMUM THE RISK OF HARM TO HOSTAGES AND
OTHER INNOCENTS. THEY ENVISAGE A 20-40 MAN GROUP PRE-
PARED RESPOND TO NEWS OF AIRPORT INCIDENT OR TAKEOVER BY TERROR-
ISTS OF OTHER LOCATIONS SUCH AS EMBASSIES.

4. WE SYMPATHETIC TO GOT DESIRE PROTECT ITSELF-- AND
FOREIGN EMBASSIES HERE--AGAINST POSSIBLE INCIDENTS.
WE ARE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC, HOWEVER, AT PROSPECT OF GETTING
INVOLVED IN PROTRACTED OR HIGHLY VISIBLE TRAINING EFFORT
OF THIS SORT IN TUNISIA. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIALS,
UNFORTUNATELY, SEEM TO WISH REPEAT IN THIS FIELD WHAT
THEY CONSIDER TO HAVE BEEN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL USG TRAIN-
ING EFFORT WITH PUBLIC ORDER BRIGADE (BOP).

5. ASSUMING SUCH EXPERTISE IS AVAILABLE, WE WOULD LIKE
TO PROPOSE TO GOT A BRIEF TDY HERE OF SOMEONE FAMILIAR
WITH USG DOCTRINE ON HANDLING TERRORIST INCIDENTS, AND
WITH KNOWLEDGE OF ANY POSSIBLE TRAINING IN SUBJECT

WHICH MAY BE AVAILABLE IN US. (ONE DIFFICULTY IN
RECENT WEEKS HERE HAS BEEN INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF
CONTENT OF FAA SECURITY COURSES.) BELIEVE WE SHOULD
TAKE LINE THAT FORMATION OF SPECIAL FORCE TO HANDLE
SUCH INCIDENTS IS SOMETHING GOT CAN DO ON ITS OWN, AND
USG NOT IN POSITION SEND TRAINING TEAM FOR THAT PUR-
POSE: BUT USG PLEASED TO SHARE WITH SENIOR POLICE
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TRAINING OFFICERS WHATEVER INSIGHTS WE HAVE INTO KIND
OF TRAINING DESIRABLE.

6. REQUEST ADVICE. STATE/AID OFFICERS MAY WISH
CONSULT WITH ROGER ROBINSON WHOSE PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT,
JULY 1923, TOUCHED ON GOT POLICE' LACK OF CAPABILITY
"TO COPE WITH KHARTOUM-TYPE INCIDENT."
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Message Attributes

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